

Message Text

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ORIGIN SY-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 /021 R

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R 152040Z MAR 74
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
INFO AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY LIMA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 052426

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ASEC
SUBJECT: FULLY ARMORED VEHICLE

PANAMA FOR RSS; LIMA FOR RSO

REFERENCE: (1) SANTIAGO 1076; (2) STATE 211908-73;
(3) SANTIAGO 4669

1. DEPARTMENT REGRETS IT CANNOT PROVIDE FULLY ARMORED VEHICLE FOR USE IN SANTIAGO AT THIS TIME DUE TO UNAVAILABILITY.
2. VEHICLE ASSIGNED BRAZIL (RIO) RECENTLY TRANSFERRED TO BUENOS AIRES. THIS WAS ONLY FULLY ARMORED CAR SUITABLE FOR TRANSFER TO SANTIAGO. BASED ON CONSIDERATION ALL FACTORS, DECISION MADE THREAT LEVEL IN ARGENTINA DICTATED TRANSFER THERE RATHER THAN CHILE.
3. LA PAZ VEHICLE NOT CONSIDERED SUITABLE FOR TRANSFER B.A. OR SANTIAGO DUE TO FACT IT IS ESPECIALLY EQUIPPED WITH EXTREMELY HIGH ALTITUDE MODIFICATIONS AND THEREFORE WILL NOT PERFORM AS EFFICIENTLY AT LOW ALTITUDES.

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MOUNTAIN TERRAIN EQUIPMENT WHICH HAS BEEN INTEGRATED INTO

THIS VEHICLE REDUCES ITS PERFORMANCE SERIOUSLY ON LEVEL GROUND.

4. SEVERAL FULLY ARMORED VEHICLES WILL BE ORDERED SHORTLY FROM FUNDS OBTAINED IN THE TERRORISM AMENDMENT. PRIORITIES FOR ASSIGNMENT OF THESE VEHICLES WILL BE DECIDED BASED ON ASSESSMENT OF THE THREAT ON A WORLD-WIDE BASIS JUST PRIOR TO THE TIME CONTRACTOR IS READY TO DELIVER THE FIRST CAR. SINCE THE CONTRACT HAS NOT BEEN LET AS YET, DEPT. UNABLE PROVIDE ESTIMATE OF DELIVERY DATE OF FIRST VEHICLE AT THIS TIME. DOUBTFUL, HOWEVER, THAT IT WILL BE EARLIER THAN AUGUST OR SEPTEMBER 1974.

5. THE EMBASSY IS ASSURED THAT THE THREAT SITUATION IN CHILE WILL BE FULLY CONSIDERED BEFORE VEHICLE ASSIGNMENTS ARE FINALIZED. KISSINGER

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